

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 28971 311146Z
ACTION EUR-12

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R 311113Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6733
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL MONTREAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 28971

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, PEPR, FR, CA
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE BARRE VISIT TO NEW YORK

REF: PARIS 28826

1. FURTHER TO REFTEL, A QUAI OFFICIAL HAS NOW INFORMED US THAT BARRE IS CONSIDERING A ONE-DAY TRIP TO NEW YORK TO FIT IN BETWEEN HIS VISIT TO QUEBEC AND HIS VISIT TO OTTAWA. (THE ORDER IN WHICH THESE TWO CANADIAN VISITS WOULD TAKE PLACE HAS EVIDENTLY NOT YET BEEN SETTLED.)

2. IN AN UNRELATED SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES, WE RECENTLY RECEIVED A LETTER FROM FORMER AMBASSADOR EDWIN A. LOCKE, JR., PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC CLUB OF NEW YORK, ASKING WHETHER WE THOUGHT PRESIDENT GISCARD WOULD ACCEPT A SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT WITH THE CLUB. WE REPLIED THAT WE THOUGHT GISCARD WOULD NOT ACCEPT BUT THAT BARRE MIGHT BE MORE WILLING. THE FRENCH APPEAR TO BE LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE FOR A BARRE STOP-OVER IN NEW YORK, AND SUCH A SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT
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WOULD PROVIDE ONE.

3. IN OUR DISCUSSION OF THE BARRE VISIT TO CANADA WITH THE CANADIAN EMBASSY HERE, THEY CONVEYED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT EXPECTS BARRE TO VISIT OTTAWA FIRST, AND TO MAKE HIS QUEBEC VISIT A PART OF HIS "TRIP TO CANADA." IT STRIKES US THAT THE

FRENCH MAY BE SEEKING TO USE A SIDE TRIP TO NEW YORK
AS A DEVICE FOR SPLITTING UP THE OTTAWA AND QUEBEC
TRIPS, THUS GIVING THE QUEBEC VISIT MORE OF A
SEPARATE (IF WE MAY BE PERMITTED TO USE THE TERM)
STATUS. IN SUCH A SITUATION, WE SEE A POSSIBILITY
THAT OUR CANADIAN FRIENDS MIGHT NOT APPRECIATE OUR
PROVIDING THE FRENCH WITH A CONVENIENT DEVICE FOR
SPLITTING OFF THE QUEBEC VISIT FROM THE "VISIT TO
CANADA." OBVIOUSLY, THAT WOULD PLACE US IN A DELICATE
POSITION. EMBASSY OTTAWA MAY WISH TO COMMENT, BUT WE
WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THIS PARTICULAR PROBLEM
WERE NOT RPT NOT MENTIONED TO THE CANADIANS UNTIL
THE REAL OPTIONS FOR BARRE'S TRIP BECOME CLEARER.
HARTMAN

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